

# HENNEPIN COUNTY

## MINNESOTA

### FINAL COMMITTEE AGENDA

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2025  
1:30 PM

Chair: Kevin Anderson, District 7  
ViceChair: Marion Greene, District 3  
Members: Jeff Lunde, District 1  
Irene Fernando, District 2  
Angela Conley, District 4  
Debbie Goettel, District 5  
Heather Edelson, District 6

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#### 1. Minutes from Previous Meeting

1.A. September 30, 2025 Meeting Minutes

**Attachments:** [PW-COMMITTEEMINUTES-30-Sept-2025](#)

#### 2. New Business

##### Routine Items

2.A. [25-0409](#)

Amd 1 to Agmt PR00005904 with Better Futures Minnesota to provide deconstruction services, ext term through 12/31/26, incr NTE by \$100,000 for a new total NTE of \$500,000

2.B. [25-0410](#)

Neg waste delivery agmts with licensed waste haulers, period 01/01/26-12/31/27; identify market price for waste management services

2.C. [25-0411](#)

Neg four agmts with various cities for organics drop-off grants, 11/06/25-11/05/27, combined total NTE \$29,500

2.D. [25-0412](#)

Neg Subordinate Funding Agmt A2513129 with Metropolitan Council for project staff services for the METRO Blue Line Extension Light Rail Transit Project, 01/01/26-12/31/26, (est recv \$1,417,368)

2.E. [25-0413](#)

Neg Subordinate Funding Agmt A2513130 with Metropolitan Council for project staff services for the METRO Green Line Extension Light Rail Transit Project, 01/01/26-12/31/26, (est rcv \$231,277)

**Items for Discussion and Action**2.F. [25-0414](#)

Approve Residential Waste Reduction and Recycling Funding Policy, negotiate SCORE grant agmts

**Attachments:** [2026-2028 Residential Waste Reduction & Recycling Fund Policy](#)

# HENNEPIN COUNTY

MINNESOTA

300 South Sixth Street  
Minneapolis, MN  
55487-0240

## Board Action Request

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**TMP-25-0832**

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**Item Description:**

September 30, 2025 Meeting Minutes

# HENNEPIN COUNTY

## MINNESOTA

### COMMITTEE MINUTES

#### PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

1:30 PM

Chair: Kevin Anderson, District 7  
ViceChair: Marion Greene, District 3  
Members: Jeff Lunde, District 1  
Irene Fernando, District 2  
Angela Conley, District 4  
Debbie Goettel, District 5  
Heather Edelson, District 6

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Commissioner Kevin Anderson, Chair, called the meeting of the Public Works Committee for Tuesday, September 30, 2025 to order at 2:35 p.m.

**Present:** Commissioner Marion Greene, Commissioner Irene Fernando, Commissioner Angela Conley, Commissioner Heather Edelson, Commissioner Debbie Goettel, Commissioner Jeff Lunde and Commissioner Kevin Anderson

#### 1. Minutes from Previous Meeting

1.A. September 16, 2025 Meeting Minutes

#### APPROVE

**Commissioner Irene Fernando moved, seconded by Commissioner Heather Edelson, to approve the Minutes.**

**Aye:** Commissioner Greene, Commissioner Fernando, Commissioner Conley, Commissioner Edelson, Commissioner Goettel, Commissioner Lunde and Commissioner Anderson

#### 2. New Business

##### Routine Items

2.A. [25-0379](#)

Neg Agmt PW 29-07-25 with Bloomington for cost participation in CP 2201111, a subproject of 2201100, county cost NTE \$500,000 (\$384,000 from surplus property tax revenues and \$116,000 from county bonds)

#### CONSENT

**Commissioner Debbie Goettel moved, seconded by Commissioner Angela Conley, to approve the Resolution.**

**Aye:** Commissioner Greene, Commissioner Fernando, Commissioner Conley, Commissioner Edelson, Commissioner Goettel, Commissioner Lunde and Commissioner Anderson

2.B. [25-0380](#)

Neg Agmt 46-34-25 with Maple Grove for jurisdictional transfers of remnant Fernbrook Lane and the extension of Maple Grove Parkway

**CONSENT**

**Commissioner Debbie Goettel moved, seconded by Commissioner Angela Conley, to approve the Resolution.**

**Aye:** Commissioner Greene, Commissioner Fernando, Commissioner Conley, Commissioner Edelson, Commissioner Goettel, Commissioner Lunde and Commissioner Anderson

2.C. [25-0381](#)

Neg Agmts PW 40-47-25 with Spring Park and PW 47-40-25 with MnDOT for CSAH 51 reconstruction project 2182000; transfer revenues and adjust budgets for CP 2182000 and 2201100 (est county cost \$325,000, recv from Spring Park \$2,650,000)

**CONSENT**

**Commissioner Debbie Goettel moved, seconded by Commissioner Angela Conley, to approve the Resolution.**

**Aye:** Commissioner Greene, Commissioner Fernando, Commissioner Conley, Commissioner Edelson, Commissioner Goettel, Commissioner Lunde and Commissioner Anderson

There being no further business, the Public Works Committee for Tuesday, September 30, 2025 was declared adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Maria Rose  
Clerk to the County Board

# HENNEPIN COUNTY

## MINNESOTA

300 South Sixth Street  
Minneapolis, MN  
55487-0240

### Board Action Request

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**25-0409**

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#### **Item Description:**

Amd 1 to Agmt PR00005904 with Better Futures Minnesota to provide deconstruction services, ext term through 12/31/26, incr NTE by \$100,000 for a new total NTE of \$500,000

#### **Resolution:**

BE IT RESOLVED, that Amendment 1 to Agreement PR00005904 with Better Futures Minnesota to provide deconstruction services, extending the contract term through December 31, 2026, and increasing the not to exceed amount from \$400,000 to \$500,000, be approved; that the Chair of the Board be authorized to sign the amendment on the behalf of the county; and that the Controller be authorized to disburse funds as directed.

#### **Background:**

This action continues the county's support of deconstruction to divert building materials from landfills by extending the original two-year agreement with Better Futures Minnesota by one year and increasing the not to exceed amount by \$100,000 to a total of \$500,000 (Resolution 24-0026). Deconstruction is a technique that systematically dismantles a building to maximize the recovery of materials for reuse and recycling.

Increasing the amount of building materials reused and recycled is one of the highest priority actions identified in the county's plan to reinvent the solid waste system to accelerate a zero-waste future. While about 85% of the materials in a typical demolition project could be salvaged and kept out of landfills, currently only about 30% of building materials are reused or recycled. Deconstruction removes materials like fixtures, cabinets, windows, flooring, and wood framing for reuse.

In addition to diverting waste from landfills, deconstruction makes it possible to avoid the need for new materials. The process to create new building materials requires energy - harvest or extraction of raw materials, processing, manufacturing, and transportation. Eighty percent of the emissions attributed to buildings come from the process of creating new building materials, while the operation of buildings accounts for 20% of the emissions attributed to buildings. Diverting construction and demolition waste for reuse or recycling is an important way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with the materials we consume and how we manage waste.

The environmental benefits of deconstruction are compelling; however, it takes longer and costs more to deconstruct than to demolish. A full deconstruction of a 2,000 square foot house takes up to two weeks and costs more than double what traditional demolition would cost, which takes a fraction of the time and staff. The funds allocated through these contracts offset the cost of deconstruction to make it a competitive alternative to demolition.

Better Futures Minnesota provides job training and support services for primarily African American men with histories of incarceration, substance abuse, mental illness, chronic unemployment, and homelessness. The organization not only focuses on providing short term work, access to job training and job placement but also on community building and renewal, promoting a sense of belonging, service, and reengagement with family and friends to combat the often-overlooked isolation faced by program participants.

Better Futures Minnesota reports that its participant recidivism rate was 7%, compared to the state average of 38% of individuals that return to prison within their first year of being released. Better Futures Minnesota has calculated a social return on investment of \$2.32 for every dollar invested in its program model.

**Current Request:**

This request seeks approval of Amendment 1 to Agreement PR00005904 with Better Futures Minnesota to provide deconstruction services, extending the contract term through December 31, 2026, and increasing the not to exceed amount to \$500,000.

**Impact/Outcomes:**

The deconstruction services funded under this agreement will expand existing markets and create new viable markets for reusable and recyclable building materials and divert valuable resources from landfilling. Under this agreement, as many as 80 buildings will be fully or partially deconstructed.

This contract supports the county's zero-waste and climate action goals. Diverting construction and demolition waste for reuse or recycling is an important way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with the materials we consume and the waste we manage.

This agreement supports the county's effort to eliminate disparities in employment by providing job training and other services to primarily African American men who have previously experienced incarceration, substance abuse, or other challenges.

**Recommendation from County Administrator:** Recommend Approval

# HENNEPIN COUNTY

## MINNESOTA

300 South Sixth Street  
Minneapolis, MN  
55487-0240

### Board Action Request

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**25-0410**

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#### **Item Description:**

Neg waste delivery agmts with licensed waste haulers, period 01/01/26-12/31/27; identify market price for waste management services

#### **Resolution:**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the County Administrator be authorized to negotiate waste delivery agreements with licensed mixed municipal solid waste haulers for acceptable waste collected in Hennepin County during the period January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2027 at a contract rate of \$85 per ton for the first year of the agreement and \$88 per ton for the second year of the agreement; and that following review and approval by the County's Attorney's Office, the Chair of the Board be authorized to sign the agreements on behalf of Hennepin County; and that the Controller be authorized to receive funds as directed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, as required by Minnesota Statute section 297H.02, subdivision 1, the County Board identifies the market price for waste management services as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 297H.01, subdivision 4, in Hennepin County, as the contract rate of \$85 per ton.

#### **Background:**

Hennepin County has entered into waste delivery agreements with approximately 75 haulers that collect municipal solid waste from homes and businesses within the county for delivery to the Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC) or the Brooklyn Park Transfer Station (BPTS) (Resolution 23-0431). The current contract rate for disposal of the municipal solid waste at these facilities is \$77 per ton. All current waste delivery agreements will terminate on December 31, 2025. These agreements minimize landfill disposal of municipal waste, which is required by state law.

The waste delivery agreements ensure the county achieves the goal to reduce the reliance on landfilling, and to recover energy and recyclable materials from discarded waste in accordance with the resource recovery objectives established by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) in its 2022-2042 Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Policy Plan and the county's 2024 Solid Waste Management Plan. Minnesota Statutes section 297H.02 requires that counties with waste management facilities such as HERC identify the market price (i.e., the "contract rate" as used here) for waste management services by resolution and report this price to the MPCA.

These agreements will establish a maximum delivery amount for each hauler to ensure the amount of municipal solid waste delivered to the county will not exceed the amount that can be managed at HERC and BPTS. Any waste delivered by a hauler above its maximum delivery amount, or by a hauler without a contract, will be charged the non-contract rate of \$150 per ton.

#### **Current Request:**

This request seeks authorization for the County Administrator to negotiate waste delivery agreements with licensed mixed municipal solid waste haulers for acceptable waste they collect in Hennepin County, at a contracted rate of \$85 per ton for the first year of the agreement and \$88 per ton for the second year of the agreement, during the period January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2027.



This request also asks the county board to identify the contract rate of \$85 per ton as the statutory market price for waste management services in Hennepin County, as required by state statute.

**Impact/Outcomes:**

The waste delivery agreements facilitate licensed waste haulers to deliver trash generated in the county to HERC to be processed to recover energy and metals and reduce landfilling in accordance with state law. Annual revenues from the waste delivery agreements are expected to be approximately \$36.5 million. This action supports the county's climate action goals by diverting waste from landfills, thereby reducing methane emissions and decreasing reliance on fossil fuels for energy and heating.

Identifying by resolution the market price for waste management services in Hennepin County assures compliance with Minnesota Statutes section 297H.02.

**Recommendation from County Administrator:** Recommend Approval

# HENNEPIN COUNTY

## MINNESOTA

300 South Sixth Street  
Minneapolis, MN  
55487-0240

### Board Action Request

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**25-0411**

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#### Item Description:

Neg four agmts with various cities for organics drop-off grants, 11/06/25-11/05/27, combined total NTE \$29,500

#### Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the County Administrator be authorized to negotiate the following agreements during the period November 6, 2025, to November 5, 2027, with a total amount not to exceed \$29,500:

- PR00007831 with the City of Bloomington for an organics drop-off grant, not to exceed \$15,000;
- PR00007830 with the City of Hopkins for an organics drop-off grant, not to exceed \$6,100;
- PR00007829 with the City of Robbinsdale for an organics drop-off grant, not to exceed \$5,000;
- PR00007832 with the City of Greenfield for an organics drop-off grant, not to exceed \$3,400; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that following review and approval by the County Attorney's Office, the County Administrator be authorized to sign the agreement on behalf of the county; and that the Controller be authorized to disburse funds as directed.

#### Background:

Expanding access to organics drop-off sites is a priority in the county's plan to reinvent the solid waste system and the Solid Waste Management Plan. Studies continue to show that organic materials comprise about 25-30% of trash. Organics recycling is our biggest opportunity to make further progress toward our zero waste and climate action goals.

Organics drop-off sites fill a service gap for residents who do not have access to city curbside organics recycling programs. For people who live in multifamily buildings, organics drop-off sites may be the most accessible option for recycling organic waste.

The City of Bloomington will provide an organics drop-off at either Wright's Lake Park or Smith Park. This will be the third drop-off site in Bloomington. The site will include an enclosure that is easy for residents to use while discouraging illegal dumping. The city will cover ongoing hauling, maintenance, and outreach. The city expects about 150 households to participate.

The City of Hopkins will provide an organics drop-off at Downtown Park, a location with a high density of multifamily housing nearby. Hopkins does not currently have an organics drop-off site, which means that their multifamily residents do not have an organics recycling option. Funding from this grant will be used to purchase collection carts, outreach materials, and supplies. The city expects about 300 households to participate.

The City of Robbinsdale will provide an organics drop-off site at 3933 West Broadway. Robbinsdale does not currently have a drop-off site for organics and this site is located near dense multifamily housing. The city will use grant funds to build an enclosure, provide signage, promote the site, and incentivize participation by providing supplies for program participants, including compostable bags, countertop pails, and informational materials. The city expects about 100 households to sign up and use the site in the first two years.

The City of Greenfield currently has an organics drop-off site located at City Hall. Greenfield does not have curbside organics collection, and this drop-off is the only option for residents to participate in organics recycling. The city will use grants funds to help subsidize hauling costs, promote the site, and purchase organics pails and bags to incentivize residents to sign up to participate. Greenfield expects to add around 40 new households to participate.

**Current Request:**

This request seeks authorization for the County Administrator to negotiate the following four agreements with cities for organics drop-off grants during the period November 6, 2025, to November 5, 2027, with a total amount not to exceed \$29,500:

- PR00007831 with the City of Bloomington, not to exceed \$15,000
- PR00007830 with the City of Hopkins, not to exceed \$6,100
- PR00007829 with the City of Robbinsdale, not to exceed \$5,000
- PR00007832 with the City of Greenfield, not to exceed \$3,400

**Impact/Outcomes:**

These funds will establish four new organics drop-off sites in the county and increase access to organics recycling, especially for residents who live in multifamily units not served by city programs.

Organics drop-off grants support the county's disparity elimination efforts by increasing access to organics recycling for underserved residents who live in multifamily housing units that do not have curbside service. One of the county's highest impact zero-waste actions is to ensure every individual has equitable access to zero-waste tools to accelerate a zero-waste future.

**Recommendation from County Administrator:** Recommend Approval

# HENNEPIN COUNTY

## MINNESOTA

300 South Sixth Street  
Minneapolis, MN  
55487-0240

### Board Action Request

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**25-0412**

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#### **Item Description:**

Neg Subordinate Funding Agmt A2513129 with Metropolitan Council for project staff services for the METRO Blue Line Extension Light Rail Transit Project, 01/01/26-12/31/26, (est rcv \$1,417,368)

#### **Resolution:**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the County Administrator be authorized to negotiate Subordinate Funding Agreement A2513129 with the Metropolitan Council for the reimbursement of dedicated county staff costs incurred for the METRO Blue Line Extension (capital project 1005877) for the positions of Deputy Project Director, Communications Administrator, Civil Design Manager, Utility and Civil Design Lead, Professional Engineer, Principal Engineering Technician and Communication Specialist during the period January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, with an estimated receivable amount of \$1,417,368; that following review and approval by the County Attorney's Office, the Chair of the Board be authorized to sign the agreement on behalf of the county; and that the Controller be authorized to accept and disburse funds as directed.

#### **Background:**

The Hennepin County Board of Commissioners authorized Master Funding Agreement A2110840 with the Metropolitan Council as an umbrella agreement to provide for activities performed by the county in connection with and in support of the METRO Blue Line Extension (Bottineau) Light Rail Transit Project (Resolution 21-0292). The Master Funding Agreement requires negotiation and execution of subordinate funding agreements for all county project activities.

Pursuant to that Master Funding Agreement, this board subsequently authorized the following subordinate funding agreements with Metropolitan Council, each of which reimbursed the county for dedicated staff costs for the METRO Blue Line Extension project in a given year:

- Agreement A2311982 for fiscal year 2024, receivable of \$868,290 (Resolution 23-0462)
- Agreement A2412545 for fiscal year 2025, receivable of \$1,270,142 (Resolution 24-0457)

This resolution would similarly authorize negotiation and execution of an agreement to reimburse the county for dedicated staff costs incurred for the project during the period January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026. County staff assigned will provide services related to planning, engineering, communications, inspection, and oversight of the project. The Metropolitan Council will reimburse the county for professional staff costs, based on actual payroll records and in accordance with the positions authorized. Staff costs will be reimbursed at each employee's actual rate of pay, plus usual and customary labor overhead additives and equipment fees, per Exhibit A of the Agreement.

#### **Current Request:**

Authorization to negotiate and execute Subordinate Funding Agreement A2513129 with the Metropolitan Council during the period January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, with an estimated receivable amount of \$1,417,368.

#### **Impact/Outcomes:**

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**25-0412**

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This action supports the county's disparity elimination efforts by advancing transportation infrastructure that reduces climate impacts and improves access to housing, jobs, schools, medical facilities, and other key destinations.

**Recommendation from County Administrator:** Recommend Approval

# HENNEPIN COUNTY

## MINNESOTA

300 South Sixth Street  
Minneapolis, MN  
55487-0240

### Board Action Request

25-0413

#### Item Description:

Neg Subordinate Funding Agmt A2513130 with Metropolitan Council for project staff services for the METRO Green Line Extension Light Rail Transit Project, 01/01/26-12/31/26, (est rcv \$231,277)

#### Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the County Administrator be authorized to negotiate Subordinate Funding Agreement A2513130 with the Metropolitan Council for the reimbursement of dedicated county staff costs incurred for the METRO Green Line Extension (capital project 1005876) in the areas of construction inspection and other related tasks, during the period January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, with an estimated receivable amount of \$231,277; that following review and approval by the County Attorney's Office, the Chair of the Board be authorized to sign the agreement on behalf of the county; and that the Controller be authorized to accept and disburse funds as directed.

#### Background:

The Hennepin County Board of Commissioners authorized Master Funding Agreement A142418 with the Metropolitan Council as an umbrella agreement to provide for activities performed by the county in connection with and in support of the METRO Green Line Extension (Southwest) Light Rail Transit Project (Resolution 14-0515). The Master Funding Agreement requires negotiation and execution of subordinate funding agreements for all county project activities.

Pursuant to that Master Funding Agreement, this board subsequently authorized the following subordinate funding agreements with Metropolitan Council, each of which reimbursed the county for dedicated staff costs for the METRO Green Line Extension project in a given year:

- Agreement A199488 for fiscal year 2019, receivable of \$783,028 (Resolution 19-0061)
- Agreement A1910056 for fiscal year 2020, receivable of \$399,101 (Resolution 20-0022)
- Agreement A2010388 for fiscal year 2021, receivable of \$410,652 (Resolution 20-0455)
- Agreement A2111083 for fiscal year 2022, receivable of \$417,352 (Resolution 22-0014)
- Agreement A2211487 for fiscal year 2023, receivable of \$423,007 (Resolution 22-0492)
- Agreement A2311981 as amended for fiscal year 2024, receivable of \$233,012 (Resolutions 23-0461 and 24-0340)
- Agreement A2412571 for fiscal year 2025, receivable of \$226,317 (Resolution 24-0522)

This resolution would similarly authorize negotiation and execution of an agreement to reimburse the county for dedicated staff costs incurred for the project during the period January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026. County staff assigned will provide services related to construction, inspection, and oversight of the project. The Metropolitan Council will reimburse the county for professional staff costs, based on actual payroll records and in accordance with the positions authorized. Staff costs will be reimbursed at each employee's actual rate of pay, plus usual and customary labor overhead additives and equipment fees, per Exhibit A of the Agreement.

#### Current Request:

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**25-0413**

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Authorization to negotiate and execute Subordinate Funding Agreement A2513130 with the Metropolitan Council during the period January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, with an estimated receivable amount of \$231,277.

**Impact/Outcomes:**

This action supports the county's disparity elimination efforts by advancing transportation infrastructure that reduces climate impacts and improves access to housing, jobs, schools, medical facilities, and other key destinations.

**Recommendation from County Administrator:** Recommend Approval

### Board Action Request

25-0414

#### Item Description:

Approve Residential Waste Reduction and Recycling Funding Policy, negotiate SCORE grant agmts

#### Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hennepin County Residential Waste Reduction and Recycling Funding Policy for the period January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2028, be approved; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Administrator be authorized to negotiate residential waste reduction and recycling grant agreements for the period of January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2028; that following review and approval by the County Attorney's Office, the Chair of the Board be authorized to sign the agreements on behalf of the county; and that the Controller be authorized to disburse funds as directed.

#### Background:

City waste reduction and recycling programs are integral to meeting county zero waste and climate action goals. To support that work, the county has funded city programs for almost 40 years. The Residential Waste Reduction and Recycling Funding Policy, last amended in September 2021, establishes the terms and conditions of distributing funds (Resolution 21-0389).

In 2024 the county provided \$4.4 million in Select Committee on Recycling and the Environment (SCORE) program funds to cities. The state's SCORE program was established in 1989. SCORE funds are based on revenue received from the state's solid waste management tax on garbage services and are subject to change based on the tax revenue received by the state and funds allocated by the legislature.

The county has made 100% of SCORE funds available to cities in accordance with the county's Residential Waste Reduction and Recycling Funding Policy. Cities must meet several basic requirements to receive funding, including standards for program implementation, partnership on education and outreach, reporting, and performance.

A draft of the 2026-2028 funding policy was shared with the cities for their review. The draft was also discussed with city recycling coordinators at the recent quarterly update meeting that county staff have with the coordinators. No changes to the draft policy were proposed by the cities.

The 2026-2028 funding policy allocates funding to the same three areas as the previous policy: 40% to general waste reduction and recycling programs, 50% to curbside organics recycling programs, 10% to organics drop-off sites and multifamily recycling. Cities receive funding based on the number of households with recycling, the target number of households signed up for organics, the number of multifamily households, and other criteria specified in the funding policy.

The 2026-2028 funding policy includes four minor changes to the previous policy.

First, the new term is for three years instead of four years, to align with the timeline for implementation of the Packaging Waste and Cost Reduction Act, a producer-funded system to expand reuse, recycling and



composting of packaging and paper products. The implementation of the packaging stewardship plan begins in 2029 and includes program cost reimbursement starting at 50%. The county will need to take the details of that plan into consideration when allocating SCORE funding in 2029 and beyond.

Second, cities will receive a minimum of \$3,300 to support curbside organics programs. Currently, some small cities receive less than that amount. Establishing a minimum funding level recognizes the efforts needed to administer an organics program and provides a stronger incentive for implementing a curbside organics program.

Third, this new funding policy ensures that all multifamily funds are passed through to cities. In the past, if a city did not apply for multifamily funding, those unclaimed funds went back to the county for use in county led multifamily initiatives. Going forward, those unclaimed funds would become available and redistributed to the cities that applied for multifamily funding.

Fourth, the county has established new participation targets for curbside organics participation: 60% for cities that contract for organics and 30% for cities with a hauler requirement. The county funds cities at those target levels to support the growth of organics programs. The county provides more funding to cities that contract for curbside organics because that type of organics program has a long, proven history of achieving higher sign-up and has more potential for growth.

Finally, in accordance with BAR 25-0296 R2 and in coordination with city staff, the funding policy includes requirements for cities of the first class, including measurable performance standards for local abatement of solid waste through waste reduction and recycling programs, standards and procedures to be used in determining annually whether the city has implemented and satisfied the performance standards for local abatement, and whether the city's policies and programs are consistent with state policy and purposes as outlined in Minn. Stat. §§ 115A.02, 115A.551 and Minn. Stat. §§ 473.842 to 473.849 (Resolution 25-0296 R2).

### **Current Request:**

This request seeks approval of the Residential Waste Reduction and Recycling Funding Policy for the period January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2028.

This request also seeks approval to authorize the County Administrator to negotiate residential waste reduction and recycling grant agreements from January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2028; authorize the Chair of the Board to sign the agreements on behalf of the county; and authorize the Controller to disburse funds as directed. An estimated \$4.5 million will be available to cities in 2026.

### **Impact/Outcomes:**

Residential waste reduction and recycling programs help accelerate progress toward zero waste, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and eliminate disparities associated with waste disposal. This funding policy continues county support for city programs, which play an important role in the solid waste system.

**Recommendation from County Administrator:** Recommend Approval

# Residential Waste Reduction and Recycling Funding Policy

January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2028

# I. Policy Overview

## A. Background

The Hennepin County Board of Commissioners has determined that residential waste reduction and recycling programs support county goals to make progress toward zero waste, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and eliminate disparities associated with waste disposal. The county has adopted the goals established in State Statute and by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) in its Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Policy Plan and developed a Residential Waste Reduction and Recycling Funding Policy to help reach a 75% recycling rate by 2030.

## B. SCORE funds

The county receives funding from the state's Select Committee on Recycling and the Environment (SCORE) for the development and implementation of waste reduction and recycling programs. SCORE funds are based on revenue received by the State of Minnesota from the solid waste management tax (SWMT) on garbage services and are subject to change based on the SWMT revenue received by the state and funds allocated by the legislature.

## C. Support for city programs

City recycling programs play an important role in the county's integrated solid waste management system. The county has funded city recycling programs for over 30 years and will use this policy to make available all SCORE funds to cities for residential waste reduction and recycling programs. SCORE funds will be dedicated to four different purposes: 1) general funding for waste reduction and recycling programs, 2) curbside organics recycling programs, 3) organics drop-off sites, and 4) multifamily waste reduction and recycling. Funds distributed to cities for a calendar year will be based on SCORE funds received by the county in the state's corresponding fiscal year.

## D. Term of the policy

Hennepin County is committed to implementing this policy from January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2028. The county may revise this policy to align with strategic priorities developed in the zero-waste plan or solid waste management plan. In addition, the county may revise this policy, if it determines changes are needed to assure compliance with state law and MPCA goals established for metropolitan counties. If SCORE funds are eliminated from the state budget or significantly reduced, the county will consult with cities at that time and develop a recommendation to the board on future funding for residential waste reduction and recycling programs.

## E. Grant agreements

Each city seeking funding under the terms of the Residential Waste Reduction and Recycling Funding Policy must enter into a grant agreement with the county for a term concurrent with the expiration of this policy, December 31, 2028. The grant agreement must be accompanied by a resolution authorizing the city to enter into such an agreement. If cities form a joint powers organization responsible for waste reduction and recycling programs, the county will enter into a grant agreement with that entity and distribute funds to that organization.

## II. Allocation of Funds

SCORE funds will be dedicated to the following purposes:

- General funding for waste reduction and recycling programs
- Curbside organics recycling programs
- Organics drop-off sites
- Multifamily waste reduction and recycling

### A. Waste reduction and recycling programs

The county will dedicate 40% of SCORE funds to provide funding for city waste reduction and recycling programs. For the purposes of this policy, city waste reduction and recycling programs include organics recycling. Funds will be allocated based on number of eligible households with curbside recycling service. The following formula will be used to calculate a city's grant amount.

$$\begin{array}{rclcl} \text{Number of eligible households} & & & & \text{Waste reduction} \\ \text{with curbside recycling in city} & & & & \text{and recycling} \\ \text{-----} & \times & \text{40\% of SCORE} & = & \text{grant amount} \\ & & \text{funds available} & & \text{available to the} \\ \text{Total number of eligible} & & & & \text{city} \\ \text{households with curbside} & & & & \\ \text{recycling in county} & & & & \end{array}$$

Eligible households are defined as households in single family through fourplex residential buildings or other residential buildings where each household has its own recycling collection container to set out for curbside collection. The number of eligible households will be determined by counting the number of eligible households on January 1 of each funding year. The city will report the number in its application for funding.

## B. Curbside organics recycling programs

The county will dedicate 50% of SCORE funds to provide funding for curbside organics recycling programs. Funds will be allocated using participation targets for each city. Funding is not contingent upon meeting the participation target. The following formula will be used to calculate a city's grant amount.

$$\frac{\text{Target number of households with curbside organics recycling in city}}{\text{Total target number of households with curbside organics recycling in county}} \times 50\% \text{ of SCORE funds available} = \text{Curbside organics recycling grant amount available to the city}$$

The county will provide a minimum grant of \$3,300 per city for curbside organics recycling programs.

Participation targets (as a percent of households with curbside recycling service):

- 60% for cities that contract for organics recycling service
- 30% for cities that require haulers to offer organics recycling service

## C. Organics drop-off sites

The county will dedicate \$3,300 per eligible city to provide funding for organics drop-off site expenses. Cities with an organics drop-off and a population of less than 10,000 are eligible.

## E. Multifamily waste reduction and recycling

The county will take 10% of SCORE funds, subtract the amount allocated to organics drop-off sites, and dedicate the remainder to provide funding for multifamily waste reduction and recycling programs. For the purposes of this policy, city waste reduction and recycling programs include organics recycling. Funds will be allocated based on the number of multifamily households. The following formula will be used to calculate a city's grant amount.

$$\frac{\text{Number of multifamily households in city}}{\text{Total number of multifamily households in county}} \times 10\% \text{ of SCORE funds available minus organics drop-off funds} = \text{Multifamily waste reduction and recycling grant amount available to the city}$$

If cities do not apply for available multifamily grant funds, the unclaimed funds will be re-allocated to the cities that applied in proportion to the number of multifamily households in those cities.

Multifamily households in cities with organized recycling collection are defined as 1) households in buildings where each household does not have its own recycling collection container to set out for curbside collection, or 2) households in buildings that do not receive recycling collection service through the city, including apartment buildings, condominiums, townhomes, and cooperative housing units where a property manager or association coordinates collection service. Multifamily households in cities with open recycling collection are defined as households in residential buildings larger than a fourplex.

### III. Application for Funding

#### A. General program and curbside organics application

To receive funding for waste reduction and recycling programs and curbside organics recycling, each city must complete an annual grant application by February 15 of that year. The application consists of a web-based report that requests the following: contract, program, tonnage, and financial information. The participation rate for the curbside recycling program must also be included in the web-based report. The city must calculate its participation rate during the month of October. The methodology for measuring participation must be provided to the county upon request. The county may request additional information, such as a planning document with a description of activities the city will implement to increase recycling and make progress toward county objectives.

#### B. Organics drop-off sites and multifamily supplementary application

To receive funding for organics drop-off sites and multifamily waste reduction and recycling, a city must submit a supplementary grant application form annually. The county will provide this form by February 15, and the city must complete it by March 15 of that year.

### IV. Use of Funds

#### A. Conditions applying to all funds

The following requirements apply to the use of all funds:

1. Funds must be expended on eligible activities per Minnesota Statutes §115A.557.

2. All grant funds accepted from the county must be used in the year granted unless the county agrees to an exception. The county will not provide any funds in excess of actual expenses. Funds not spent must be returned to the county.
3. A city or joint powers organization may not charge its residents through property tax, utility fees, waste fees, environmental fees, or any other method for the portion of its waste reduction and recycling program costs that are funded by county grant funds.
4. Cities must track expenditures for waste reduction and recycling programs, curbside organics recycling, organics drop-off sites, and multifamily waste reduction and recycling and establish accounting mechanisms to provide the information requested in the financial section of the annual grant application.
5. Waste reduction and recycling activities, revenues, and expenditures are subject to audit.

#### B. Curbside organics use of funds

Curbside organics grant funds may be used for program expenses, including the following:

- Incentives for participation (service discounts, countertop pails, compostable bags)
- City contract costs
- Education and outreach
- Carts
- Other expenses approved by the county

Yard waste expenses are not eligible. If organics are co-collected with other waste, the organics expenses must be tracked separately. If a city passes funds through to a hauler, 100% of those funds must be credited to residents' bills.

#### C. Organics drop-off sites use of funds

Organics drop-off site grant funds may be used for program expenses, including the following:

- Hauling and disposal
- Dumpsters or carts
- Site construction
- Education and outreach
- Incentives for participation (countertop pails, compostable bags)
- Other expenses approved by the county

#### D. Multifamily waste reduction and recycling use of funds

Cities that choose to apply for multifamily waste reduction and recycling funding will work with

the county to identify eligible activities that are customized to the city's goals and needs. These activities will be determined through the supplementary grant application process.

Multifamily resources provided by the county, including reusable tote bags/baskets and multifamily specific signs and labels, are not eligible expenses.

## V. City Requirements

### A. Materials accepted

A city's curbside collection program must accept a list of mixed recyclables as selected by the county in consultation with haulers, local material recovery facilities, and end markets. The county will update the list of materials as needed, distribute the list to city recycling coordinators, and post the list on the county's website.

### B. Education and outreach

The partnership between the county and cities has been highly effective in educating residents and motivating behavior change. To continue this partnership and increase these efforts, city waste reduction, recycling and organics recycling activities must be coordinated with county and regional efforts. Municipalities must adhere to the following requirements:

1. Use county terminology on promotional and educational materials when describing recycling and organics recycling guidelines, including the description of materials accepted and not accepted, as well as when describing preparation guidelines.
2. Use images approved by the county if using images of mixed recyclables and organic materials.
3. Provide the following information on the city's website:
  - Recycling and organics recycling materials accepted and not accepted
  - Curbside collection calendar
  - Contact information for the city's recycling coordinator
  - Links to city recycling resources and programs
  - Organics drop-off site(s) information
  - Links to county recycling resources and programs
4. Provide a guide on recycling and organics recycling to residents each year. The guide shall contain information on curbside collection, materials accepted and not accepted, organics drop off site information (if applicable), and a curbside collection calendar.



5. Complete two or more waste reduction, recycling and organics recycling educational activities annually that include the promotion of curbside collection. The county will provide a list of activities to city recycling coordinators. These activities are in addition to the provision of an annual guide.
6. If a city develops its own educational materials, does not use a template produced by the county, does not utilize design services offered by the county, or relies on a hauler to provide an annual guide, then the city must submit the materials to the county for approval.

### C. Waste reduction and recycling performance

On an annual basis, cities must demonstrate that a reasonable effort has been made to improve waste reduction and recycling programs. If a city does not demonstrate measurable progress, a waste reduction and recycling improvement plan must be submitted by the city within 90 days of being notified by the county. The waste reduction and recycling improvement plan must be negotiated with the county and specify the efforts that will be undertaken by the city to improve its program to yield the results necessary to achieve county objectives. In cooperation with the county, the city may be required to participate in waste sorts and community engagement to identify strategies to improve waste reduction and recycling outcomes.

### D. Cities of the first class

Cities of the first class must comply with the county's measurable performance standards and report recycling rates and compliance rates to the county annually by February 15. Cities of the first class must also report bi-annually on specific steps for implementation that address the county's priorities.

The county will determine annually whether the cities have implemented and satisfied performance standards. If the cities do not implement and satisfy the performance standards, a waste reduction and recycling improvement plan must be submitted by the city within 90 days of being notified by the county. The improvement plan must specify the efforts the city will take to implement and satisfy the performance standards identified by the county. The improvement plan must be negotiated with the county and approved by the county. If the county does not approve the improvement plan, then SCORE funding will be withheld.

## VI. Grant Payments

The county will make two payments to cities each year. Those two payments will provide the sum of each city's total grant amount for general waste reduction and recycling programs, curbside organics recycling programs, organics drop-off sites, and multifamily waste reduction and recycling. One payment will be made after the county receives the applications for funding. A second payment will be made after basic program requirements, education and outreach

requirements, and performance have been confirmed and approved. If the city meets the county requirements, both payments will be made during the same calendar year.

Cities are expected to fulfill the conditions of this policy and the requirements of the county's Ordinance 13. It is the responsibility of each city to meet the requirements of Ordinance 13. The implementation of the county requirements for cities shall be the responsibility of each respective city. If any city fails to establish or implement any or all of the city requirements in Ordinance 13, all SCORE funding will be withheld until the city meets the requirements or a waste reduction and recycling improvement plan is negotiated with the county.